Steel 11A

Mr. Ray L. Bowers
Chief, Policy Staff
NSA/CSS
Fort Meade, Md. 20755

2/24/80

re Serial 19053

Dear Mr. Bowers,

My wife has asked me to respond to your letter of 2/22/80. You state that you are now acting on a referral from the FBI of her PA request of 12/13/78, which your agency received on 2/4/80. One presumes it was not mailed by snail-powered Greyhound that Carrigan knows, was not lost, and was only just now sent by the FBI. No matter, a delay of more than three years is not by any means a record for the overly-deliberated and insufficiently meaningful operations. It doesn't begin to compare with your own record in my PA request, in which, with the dedication to complete honesty and the unwavering integrity those of us who pay the salaries of bureaucrats & have come to expect, you denied the existence of this record.

However, you are not inconsistent. I recall your affidavits in my FOIA litigation.

When I told you that two of your investigators had been to the State Department making inquiries about me and I had their names, you also denied that.

There is a law, Mr. Bowers. It is called the Privacy Act. Under it, and it applies to you, too, you are required to enable those on whom you have records that may not be as crude to be able to file correcting statements. In making a false denial of having any records on me you denied me my PA rights to correct this record, which is so incomplete it amounts to inaccuracy and is defamatory.

It is, in fact, inaccurate in attributing my reason to my firing by the State Department because I was fired without charges, without hearing, and under an Act since found to be unconstitutional, the Feherman Rider. Moreover, the State Department rescinded the action and even apologized.

Your withholdings do not conform to the requirements of FOIA in that you do not correlate the claims to exemption with the withholdings. You do make a (7)(D) withholding but you make no claim to this exemption. You make (7)(D) claim for a government agency. At best one can figure out what you without cause left to be figured out. How can one appeal

misuse of an unidentified exemption?

How correct a (b)(1) claim in a record that bears no visible classification. If you obliterated the classification (not in accord with the EO) then one can't be certain whether a withholding is of the classification or of other content.

It is on reading records like this one that I have come to realize just how the nation was saved from the most awesome catastrophes. There is someone who supposedly had some kind of unspecified association or connection with three people said to be our relatives. (Two names do not exist and one is out.) Therefore, because my wife belongs to a purchasing cooperative at a time somebody like you considered them subversive, this person, totally unknown to my wife, might jeopardize the nation.

And then it is that we have been saved from any intelligence disasters, from Pearl Harbor to Teheran, with so many in between.

If you can take time from your more important duties, like making unnecessary claims to FOIA exemptions to withhold what does not really need to be withheld, maybe you can explain it to me what the FBI has now: How can I have had an indirect association?

And now that it is clear that the response to my FA request was not truthful, how about complying with it?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg